



Texas Indigent Defense Workshop

October 25 & 26, 2023

Texas Association of Counties Event Center
1210 San Antonio Street, Austin TX. 78701- 4th Floor

AGENDA

Day 1-Wed., Oct. 25

- 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. ***Registration***
- 8:15 – 8:30 a.m. ***Welcome***
Scott Ehlers, Interim Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Nathan Craddock, County Auditor, Tom Green County & 2023 President,
Texas Association of Counties
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. ***Building Public Defender and Managed Assigned Counsel Offices***
Elizabeth Berry, First Assistant Public Defender, Concho Valley Public Defender Office
Jim Bethke, Director, Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel
Jason Howell, Chief Defender, Panhandle Area Public Defender Office
Hon. Ben Zeller, County Judge, Victoria County
- TIDC Representatives:
Edwin Colfax, Director of Grant Funding, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Kristin Meeks, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. ***Access to Counsel & Demystifying TIDC Policy Monitoring***
TIDC Policy Team
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. ***Break***
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. ***Multi-County Indigent Defense Services***

Regional Public Defender's Office for Capital Cases
Hon. Curtis Parrish, County Judge, Lubbock County
- myPadilla***
Nora Picasso, Immigration Attorney, myPadilla
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. ***Focus on TIDC Research***

Counsel at First Appearance
Dr. George Naufal, PhD, Associate Research Scientist, Public Policy Research Institute,
Texas A&M University
- Use of Investigators by Texas Public Defense Providers***
Dr. Venita Embry, PhD, MPH, Research Public Health Associate, Center for Criminal
Legal Systems Research, RTI International

- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
Speaker: Anthony Graves, Exoneree and Founder, Peer Navigator Project
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Family Protection Representation (CPS cases): Where are we today?**
Moderator – Crystal Leff-Pinon, Senior Policy Analyst, TIDC
Dylan Moench, Legal Representation Director, Texas Children’s Commission
Rhonda Rieken, Child Protection Division Supervisor, Dallas County Public Defender
Judge (pending confirmation)
- Family Protection Representation (CPS cases): What can we do now and in the future?**
Moderator – Crystal Leff-Pinon, Senior Policy Analyst, TIDC
Cindy Dyar, Project Director – Family Defense Project, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
Leslie Hill, Managing Attorney, Travis County Office of Child Representation
Jacquelyn Wilson, Chief, Travis County Office of Parent Representation
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. **Mental Health Defense Programs & Grant Opportunities**
Edwin Colfax, Director of Grant Funding, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Danice Obregon, Chief Defender, Nueces County Public Defender Office
Kathryn Dyer, Clinical Professor, Criminal Defense Clinic, University of Texas School of Law
Other speaker pending confirmation
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Introduction to Break-Out Sessions**
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Break-out Session 1**

Day 2-Thurs., Oct. 26

- 8:15 – 8:45 a.m. **Arrive/Registration**
- 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. **88th Legislature Recap**
Rick Thompson, Legislative Director, County Judges and Commissioners Assoc. of Texas
Edwin Colfax, Director of Grant Funding, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Crystal Leff-Pinon, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Wesley Shackelford, Deputy Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
- 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Break-Out Session 2**
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Report Back**

End